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General and complete disarmament: assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them

Andorra, Angola, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Cyprus, Djibouti, Eritrea, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Haiti, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mali,* Mozambique, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Swaziland, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Uganda and Zambia: revised draft resolution

Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 59/74 of 3 December 2004 on assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them,

Deeply concerned by the magnitude of human casualty and suffering, especially among children caused by the illicit proliferation and use of small arms and light weapons,

Concerned by the negative impact that the illicit proliferation and use of those weapons continue to have on the efforts of States in the Sahelo-Saharan subregion in the area of poverty eradication, sustainable development and the maintenance of peace, security and stability,

Taking note of the latest report of the Secretary-General on assistance to States for curbing illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects,[1] in which he states inter alia that continued efforts are being made to provide assistance to countries in need of addressing the proliferation of illicit weapons in their territories,

* On behalf of the Member States of the United Nations which are members of the Economic Community of West African States.

[1] A/60/161.

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Welcoming the decision taken by the Economic Community of West African States to strengthen the moratorium on the importation, exportation and manufacture of small arms and light weapons in West Africa, adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community at Abuja on 31 October 1998,[2] by upgrading it to a legally binding instrument,

Welcoming in that regard the decision of the European Union to significantly support the initiative of the Economic Community of West African States to strengthen the moratorium,

Welcoming also the decision taken by the Community to establish a Small Arms Unit and to adopt a new Small Arms Control Programme,

Bearing in mind the Bamako Declaration on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons, adopted at Bamako on 1 December 2000,[3]

Recalling the report of the Secretary-General, entitled "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all", in which he emphasized that States must strive just as hard to eliminate the threat of small arms and light weapons as they do to eliminate the threat of weapons of mass destruction,[4]

Taking note of the report of the July 2005 Second Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, at the national, regional and global levels,[5]

Welcoming the expression of support in the 2005 World Summit Outcome[6] for the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Taking note of the Draft International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons,[7] concluded in June 2005,

Recognizing the important role that the organizations of civil society play in raising public awareness in efforts to curb the illicit traffic in small arms,

1. *Commends* the United Nations, international, regional and other organizations for their assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them;

2. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to pursue his efforts in the context of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 49/75 G of 15 December 1994 and the recommendations of the United Nations advisory missions, aimed at curbing the illicit circulation of small arms and collecting such arms in the affected States that so request, with the support of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and in close cooperation with the African Union;

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[2] A/53/763-S/1998/1194, annex.
[3] A/CONF.192/PC/23, annex.
[4] See A/59/2005, para. 81.
[5] A/CONF.192/BMS/2005/1.
[6] A/60/L.1, para. 94.
[7] A/60/88, annex, and Corr.1 and Corr.2.

3. *Encourages* the international community to support the implementation of the moratorium on the importation, exportation and manufacture of small arms and light weapons in West Africa, and to extend further assistance in transforming the moratorium into a legally-binding instrument;[2]

4. *Encourages* the countries of the Sahelo-Saharan subregion to facilitate the effective functioning of national commissions to combat the illicit proliferation of small arms, and in that regard, invites the international community to lend its support wherever possible;

5. *Also encourages* the collaboration of organizations and associations of civil society in the efforts of the national commissions to combat the illicit traffic in small arms and in the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects;[8]

6. *Further encourages* cooperation among State organs, international organizations and civil society in supporting programmes and projects aimed at combating the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them;

7. *Calls upon* the international community to provide technical and financial support to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations to take action to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons;

8. *Invites* the Secretary-General and those States and organizations that are in a position to do so to continue to provide assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to consider the matter and to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-first session the item entitled "Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them".

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[8] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, New York, 9-20 July 2001* (A/CONF.192/15 and Corr.1) chap. IV, para. 24.